

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM STATUS & AMENDMENTS

Claims 7, 20, 21, 33, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 47-49 were pending in this application when last examined.

Claims 7, 21, 33, 39, 40, 42, 43, 48 and 49 were examined on the merits and stand rejected.

Claims 20, 33 and 47 were indicated as allowed.

Claims 7, 21, 39, 40, 42, 43, 48 and 49 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional on any cancelled subject matter. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Claims 20, 33 and 47 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

II. OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS

Claims 7, 21, 39, 40, 42, 43, 48 and 49 were newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ohkawa et al. (US 6,218,429) or Ohkawa et al. (US 6,034,238).

For the sole purpose of expediting prosecution and not to acquiesce to the rejection, the rejected claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

On pages 3-4 of the Action, it was indicated that claims 20, 33 and 47 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the Office's indication of allowable subject matter.


IV. CONCLUSION

Since only the allowed claims remain, the application should now be in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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